

NEWS FROM



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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NAACP UNITS SEEK
PEACE IN GHETTOS

NEW YORK. — Local units of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People across the country have been deeply involved in efforts to prevent and halt outbreaks of ghetto violence, reports from the field received in the National Office here indicate.

Action by the local branches of the NAACP has come in response to an urgent "Red Alert" in June and a more recent follow-up message from Executive Director Roy Wilkins suggesting a series of positive steps to help avert violence. "Don't just be against riots," the NAACP leader urged; "be active in preventing them."

Among actions recommended by Mr. Wilkins were consultations with officials prodding them to initiate preventive measures; organization of teen-age patrols to help keep things "cool"; setting up of emergency steering committees of community leaders to check rumors and issue correct information; urging parents to discipline their children and keep them off the streets; involvement of the churches and other mass organizations in "keep-it-cool" efforts; launching of voter registration drives; and appeals to the public via the mass media of communications to avoid violence.

Among reports of NAACP anti-riot actions received here are the following:

OHIO.— An emergency conference of the state's 44 NAACP branches has been scheduled for Aug. 5 in Columbus. The conference will review conditions in all Ohio cities where there have been indications of racial tensions, map plans to prevent outbreaks, and consider steps to halt violence once started.

VIRGINIA.— The Virginia NAACP has initiated a statewide campaign to implement Executive Director Wilkins' seven-point riot-prevention program in every community of potential violence.

TEXAS.— State NAACP has appealed through news media throughout the state for action by officials and citizens to take every possible step to avert any outbreak of violence.

ATLANTA.— Churches throughout the city, responding to an appeal from the branch and to President Lyndon B. Johnson's proclamation, conducted a "Progress Through Law and Order" program Sunday, July 30. In his call for observance of the

day, Branch President Albert M. Davis said that "irresponsible lawlessness is not the answer to our community problems."

ATLANTIC CITY. -- Edgar A. Harris, branch president, sent copies of Mr. Wilkins' seven-step program to churches in the city with the request that it be read to the congregations but also that it be "discussed extensively."

ROGALUSA, La. -- In a meeting with the Mayor and members of the Commission Council, July 13, NAACP branch leaders secured agreement to consider applications from Negroes for city jobs which have been closed to them. City officials also agreed to support efforts of Negroes to get employment in private industry. The Southern Bell Telephone Company has tested eight young women and is expected to begin training at least two of them within 30 days.

CAIRO, Ill. -- NAACP leadership met frequently with city officials and other influential leaders in efforts to halt rioting and prevent another outbreak.

CHESTER, Pa. -- Following a conference with the Mayor and Chief of Police on ways and means of averting trouble, July 27, Branch President Fred Douglas reported that he felt "confident there will be no major disturbance."

CHICAGO. -- At a conference with Mayor Richard Daley and other city officials, the NAACP branch submitted a series of recommendations for reform and improvement of Police, Fire and Park departments, the Chicago Housing Authority, the Department of Consumer Sales and Cook County State Attorney's office, in regard to relations with minority groups.

DENVER, Colo. -- More than 300 young persons placed in jobs through recently established youth employment center.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. -- The branch has taken steps to enlarge present 50-person Teenage Patrol to 150, appealed to the community through all news media, established a 30-man civilian radio car patrol to assist police, secured appointment by the Mayor of a 25-member steering committee, and establishment of a rumor clinic in the Police Department. Branch President Mildred Louise Sammons reports "community cooperation and participation good."

FLINT, Mich. -- A youth patrol, established by the branch, was helpful in restoring order. Edgar Holt, branch president and other NAACP officers, kept in constant touch with city officials. The branch intervened to secure the release of 102 persons arrested in connection with the violence.

INDIANAPOLIS. -- NAACP branches in this city have developed a four-point program for use in the event of any racial disturbance: (1) opening of school buildings to shelter persons made homeless, with churches being ready on a standby basis to offer shelter if needed; (2) designation of a public agency to be responsible for meeting emergency needs; (3) establishment of neighborhood information centers to orient residents as to what to do in a crisis; and (4) appointment of an official committee to probe the causes of riots in other communities with a view to corrective action to remove the causes from the local scene.

DETROIT. -- Branches raising \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons (reportedly National Guardsmen) who killed in cold blood three young unarmed Negroes in a motel during the riot. A similar sum is being raised as a reward for the arrest and conviction of the slayer of four-year-old Tomia Flanding who was killed in her home by rifle fire from outside.

OMAHA, Neb. -- The three Omaha branches have called upon Gov. Tiemann to assure "equal employment in all jobs under state control, "to include Negroes in any military units sent to ghetto areas in case of trouble, and to promote equality of housing opportunity. The branches have also enlisted the support of the clergy in communicating to the people the futility of violence as a means

of correcting inequities.

BERKELEY, Calif. — Mrs. Mary Jane Johnson, branch president, has called for calm in the community through the mass media and together with the executive committee of the branch has met with the Mayor and other city officials in an effort to avert the outbreak of violence. The Berkeley *Daily Gazette* editorially commended Mrs. Johnson's "calm, sensible approach" as "one that all Berkeleyans can find comfort in. But more than comfort is needed. The active participation of the white and Negro community is needed at all levels."

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Branch President Milton L. McGhee has issued a call for a community-wide conference on the theme, "Together in the Community." The conference, scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 6, seeks to bring together "elected officials, religious leaders, appointive officials, representatives of private organizations and members of the community, for an exchange of ideas" in the hope of developing programs and actions to prevent any outbreak of violence.

LBJ NAMES WILKINS
TO ANTI-RIOT UNIT

August 5, 1967

WASHINGTON. — Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been named a member of President Johnson's 11-member Commission on Civil Disorders. Mr. Wilkins and Sen. Edward M. Brooke (R., Mass.) are the only two Negro members of the high-power commission.

The President announced the establishment of the Commission and named its members at the conclusion of a moving nation-wide television appeal for an end to violence in the cities. Named chairman of the Commission was Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois. Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York City was named vice chairman.

MRS. VIRNA CANSOM NAMED
NAACP FIELD DIRECTOR

August 5, 1967

NEW YORK. — Appointment of Mrs. Virna M. Cansom as a field director to work out of the San Francisco regional office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been announced by NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins.

Mrs. Cansom, who lives in Sacramento, Calif., has been a longtime volunteer worker for the NAACP on the West Coast. She has served as legislative representative in California, as a member of the Sacramento NAACP Branch, and as secretary-manager of the branch's credit union with assets of \$300,000.

A graduate of Tuskegee Institute with special study at the University of Wisconsin, Mrs. Cansom is a former consumer education specialist with the anti-poverty program in California and a former community organization representative, California State Office of Economic Opportunity.

In her new position, Mrs. Cansom assists Leonard Carter, West Coast regional director, in implementing the NAACP program in that region. The Association's field operations are under the direction of Glosier B. Current, director of branches and field administration.

(2)

WILKINS STRESSES JOBS
AND VOTE AS HE OPENS
NAACP SUMMER PROJECT

August 5, 1967

CHARLESTON, Mo. — In a stirring address to more than 1200 persons gathered in Lincoln School here, Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, officially launched the five-week Missouri Summer Project which the Association is conducting in the "Boot-Heel" area of Missouri.

He stressed the facts that the purposes of the project are primarily to train local leadership and to emphasize the importance of voter registration. Speaking of the later, he said that the power of the vote "is an effective and explosive weapon. We Negroes in our campaign should increase our registration to vote for those who are for us and against those who are against us."

He added: "I think the events in Detroit and Newark have made us realize the skill and effectiveness of local people when they are able to establish a dialogue with local leaders. When Negroes start throwing bricks, they should throw them at people who refuse to register."

He reminded his audience that the NAACP is the oldest continuing civil rights organization for Negroes in the United States. He said that although the State of Missouri has received \$71 million in Federal funds, very little has come to the 400,000 Negroes in the state. "If money doesn't start to come to the Negroes, we'll take the problem back to Washington and insist that we get some of it.

"By working to get ourselves better jobs...by chopping off a little of their economic toes, we can make whites jump faster, but DON'T RIOT! The riots are not in the interests of the Negroes. When you flirt with riots, you flirt with death."

Miss Ina Boon, executive secretary of the St. Louis Branch, presided over the Kickoff Rally, which opened with an invocation by the Rev. William Chapman of Kennett, Mo. Greetings were extended by T.P. Fenton, Mayor of Charleston, and Marshall Currin, president of the Charleston NAACP Branch.

Mrs. Helen Currin roused the audience to a standing ovation when she chided some of the Negroes in the audience for being fearful of joining the NAACP. "You got to be with us in this fight, or else you're against us," she said.

NAACP ACCELERATES
LIFE MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE IN CALIF.

August 5, 1967

NEW YORK. — An intensive, stepped-up life membership campaign among 20 NAACP branches in California has been initiated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Life Membership Assistant Edward B. Muse has been designated to coordinate the drive.

During his 24-day tour of the state, Mr. Muse and Mrs. Medgar Evers, widow of the martyred NAACP Mississippi leader, will represent the Association at four conventions -- National Dental Association, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Pacific Coast Convocation of the United Holy Church of America, all meeting in Los Angeles, and the United Mortgage Bankers of America in San Francisco.

(2)